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Builth Rural District Council
Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1961

Officials.

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Public Health Inspector.....J.C.Bowen,M.A.P.H.I.,
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Builth Rural District Council

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1961

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Rural District during the year 1961.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included comments on all the subjects specifically requested in Circular 1/62 (Wales) by the Welsh Board of Health.

Section 1. General and Vital Statistics.

Area. The district has an area of 125,944 acres and is a large rural area situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire. The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents. There are no large towns in the district.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
Legitimate	26.	15.	41.	
Illegitimate	0.	1.	1.	
	26.	16.	42.	13.1

The corrected birthrate was 16.2

The corresponding rate for the whole of England and Wales was 17.4

The district rate was therefore lower than the national average but higher than the district death rate.

Illegitimate Births. One illegitimate birth was registered during the year.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Crude Rate per 1000 Pop.</u>
	24.	20.	44.	13.7

The corrected deathrate was 12.1

The rate for the whole of England and Wales was 12.0. The district rate was therefore slightly higher than the national average but was lower than the district birth rate, which is a satisfactory feature.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 live & still births</u>
	0.	0.	0.	0.

Total still birth rate for whole of England and Wales was 18.7

Total Live and Still Births.....42

Infantile Deaths. There were two deaths registered in children of under one year of age, giving a rate of 47.0. One of these children died when under 4 weeks of age.

The national average rate per 1000 live births was 21.4

Population.

Census 1931.....	4426.
Census 1951.....	3502.
Census 1961.....	3204.
Estimated Midsummer 1961.....	3200.

The Registrar General's estimated population for the last ten years is shown below.

1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961.

3439. 3413. 3500. 3490. 3490. 3390. 3360. 3330. 3340. 3200.

The population dropped considerably over the last three census years, and the estimated populations appear to be slowly but surely dropping.

Maternal Deaths. No deaths occurred which could be attributed to childbirth. This is a very satisfactory feature.

Maternal Mortality Rate.....Nil.

Deaths from Special Causes.

Infectious disease.....Nil.
Respiratory tuberculosis.....Nil.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....11.

Number of inhabited houses. This numbers 1066 giving an average number of persons per house of 3.0

Analysis of Causes of Deaths. Males...24. Females...20.

Males. Females.

Syphilitic disease.....	1.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	0.....	2.
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	3.....	0.
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.....	1.
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	0.....	2.
Other malignant neoplasms.....	3.....	0.
Leukaemia.....	1.....	0.
Diabetes.....	0.....	1.
Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	2.....	1.
Coronary disease, angina.....	5.....	3.
Other heart disease.....	5.....	5.
Pneumonia.....	0.....	2.
Bronchitis.....	1.....	0.
Other diseases, respiratory system.....	1.....	0.
Gastritis.....	0.....	1.
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1.....	0.
Congenital malformations.....	0.....	1.
Other defined causes.....	0.....	1.
Accidents non motor vehicle.....	1.....	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Section 2. General Provisions of Health Services.

Public Health Officers. No changes of officers occurred during the year, Mr. J. C. Bowen remaining as your Public Health Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Hereford. All water and milk samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the County at Carmarthen, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the same laboratory.

Nursing and other facilities. The County Council is responsible for the provision of the ambulance and home nursing services. The County also administers the maternity and child welfare clinics where treatment is available for minor ailments, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects. Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is also carried out at these clinics.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Builth Hospital. The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying. Two premises were disinfested during the year.

Section 3. Sanitary Circumstances.

Water Supplies. Water supplies to the district are derived mainly from springs. In one case the source is a shallow well.

For various reasons water was restricted during the year at Erwood, Gwenddwr, Llangammarch, Nant-yr-Onen, Llanwrthwl and Cefngorwydd. Work continued on the comprehensive scheme and good progress was made on stages 2 & 3 which provides for a large portion of Builth rural district.

Cilmery village was transferred to the new Three Wells supply and the chlorinator at Cilmery was transferred to Erwood. Prior to the installation of the chlorinator at Erwood unsatisfactory reports were continually being received on samples of water submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. The present Erwood supply is also of insufficient quantity to meet the demands of the village during drought conditions. Other sources were investigated with a view to augmenting the supply but gaugings taken indicate that they were also of insufficient quantity. The possibility of supplying Erwood by an extension of the Major Scheme from Oaklands is being investigated.

Llangammarch Wells was also connected to the Water Board's main during the year.

During the year the Council ceased to act as an agent for the Builth and District Water Board which has now assumed responsibility for the maintenance of all supplies.

As suggested in Circular 1/62 (Wales) the following information is supplied.

(a) Public Water Supply.

Parish	Piped into house		Piped to House Curtilage		Served by Standpipes	
	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied
Alltmawr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crickadarn	16	49	0	0	0	0
Gwarafog	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwenddwr	29	87	1	3	5	15
Llanafanfawr	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llanafanfechan	9	27	0	0	5	15
Llandewi Abergwesyn	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llandewi'r Cwm	87	261	8	24	0	0
Llandulas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llanfiangel Abergwesyn	0	0	0	0	0	0

Builth Rural District Council

Parish	Piped into house		Piped to house curtilage		Served by Standpipes	
	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied
Llanfi angel Brynpabuan	1	3	0	0	0	0
Llanganten	41	123	0	0	1	3
Llangynog	2	6	0	0	0	0
Llanlleonfel	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llanwrthwl	43	129	0	0	0	0
Llanwrtyd Without	1	3	0	0	0	0
Llanynis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Llysdinam	2	6	1	3	0	0
Maesmynis	2	6	0	0	10	30
Penbuallt	60	180	3	9	19	57
Rhosferig	5	15	0	0	0	0
Treflis	20	60	4	12	3	9

b. Private Water Supply.

Parish	Piped into house		Piped to House Curtilage		Served by Standpipes	
	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied
Alltmawr	4	12	0	0	0	0
Crickadarn	39	117	5	15	0	0
Gwarafog	13	39	0	0	0	0
Gwenddwr	45	135	4	12	1	3
Llanafanfawr	46	138	5	15	0	0
Llanafanfechan	13	39	1	3	0	0
Llandewi Abergwesyn	5	15	0	0	0	0
Llandewi'r Cwm	16	48	0	0	0	0
Llandulas	34	102	0	0	0	0
Llanfi angel Abergwesyn	22	66	6	18	0	0
Llanfi angel Brynpabuan	16	48	2	6	0	0
Llanganten	13	39	2	6	0	0
Llangynog	3	9	0	0	0	0
Llanlleonfel	20	60	0	0	0	0

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Parish	Piped into House		Piped to House Curtilage		Served by Standpipes	
	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied	No.	Persons supplied
Llanwrthwl	24	72	4	12	0	0
Llanwrtyd Without	24	72	0	0	0	0
Llanynis	20	60	1	3	0	0
Llysdimam	24	72	3	9	0	0
Maesmynis	15	45	1	3	0	0
Penbualt	25	75	0	0	0	0
Rhosferig	12	36	0	0	0	0
Treflis	36	108	3	9	0	0

Water Samples.

Public Supplies. The number of samples from public supplies sent for bacteriological examination was 49. Of these 46 were reported as satisfactory and 3 as unsatisfactory. In addition 7 samples were taken from private sources and private proposed supplies. Three were reported as satisfactory and 4 as unsatisfactory.

There was a steady demand for the sampling of proposed farm supplies comprising improvement schemes under the Hill Farming Act, 1946, and a considerable amount of advice was given on the selection and protection of various proposed schemes.

Number of visits to Council water supplies.....32.

General visits in connection with water supplies.....28.

Drainage and Sewerage. Work continued on domestic connections at Llangammarch, Erwood and Gwenddwr. Instructions were issued for the provision of sewerage schemes at the villages of Cefngorwydd, Garth and Beulah.

The Council are to be complimented on their endeavour to provide sewerage schemes in all villages in the rural district and when these schemes are completed all villages will then have adequate drainage facilities. The following information is brought to the notice of the Council:-

Water Closets		Chemical Closets		Pail Closets		Privies		Connected to					
								Council Sewer		Private Sewer		Septic Tank	
No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%	No. Houses	%
481	42.2	69	6.2	334	29.3	255	22.3	208	18.2	39	3.5	230	20.1
520	45.2	66	5.7	315	27.4	249	21.7	221	19.2	39	3.5	256	22.3

In connection with the above figures, the first line relates to the year 1960 and the second to the year 1961.

Public Cleansing. The scheme inaugurated in 1952, provides for the collection of refuse at fortnightly intervals, from properties along the roads throughout the greater part of the district. The scheme is carried out by a contractor and tips are provided at Llanfanfechan and Newbridge. There was a very satisfactory response to the scheme and very great quantities of accumulated refuse have been disposed of. The refuse disposal scheme for Llanwrthwl forms a separate contract and all refuse collected there is disposed of at the tip near the village. An additional route from Tregare via Alltmawr parish to Dolfach was in operation during the year.

Number of visits made to refuse tips.....21.
 Number of general visits in connection with refuse.....19.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by your Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. C. Bowen, and the details of this report concerning visits, samples and inspections give information relating to the work of the Public Health Inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....27.
 Number of complaints investigated.....27.
 Number of premises revisited.....27.

Common Lodging Houses.There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Public Health Inspector.....6.
 Number of notices served (Informal).....1.

In recent years a considerable amount of work has been carried out by the Brewery Companies to the Licensed Premises in the district. Only two were not provided with a water closet.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits.....11.
 Two new sites were approved during the year, one at Aberduhonw for 5 caravans and one at Cwrt Gwenddwr for 1 caravan.

Shops Acts.

Number of inspections made.....2.
 Number of notices served.....0.

Camping Sites.There are two recognised camping sites in the district. One at Cilmerly and one at Elan Valley. No new sites were approved during the year. Action is being taken in connection with unauthorised siting of caravans on various sites.

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

No premises were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Rodent Control.

Number of premises inspected as a result of;
 (a) Notification.....9.
 (b) Survey.....156. plus 16 agricultural
 (c) Otherwise.....325.
 Total inspections carried out.....506.
 Number of properties infested by;
 (a) Rats - Major...0. Minor...159 plus 6 agricultural
 (b) Mice - Major...0. Minor...28 plus 3 agricultural

Number of premises treated by Local Authority.....187.
 Number of "Block" control carried out.....1.

Sewers treatments were carried out. Ten per cent of manholes in each scheme were baited and there was no bait takes in any.
 All dead rats and mice are buried.

Legal Proceedings.No legal action was taken by the Council during the year.

Section 4. Housing. During the year 10 new Council houses were completed at Llangammarch. Consideration was given to the building of Council houses at Beulah, Garth and Cefngorwydd.

Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year.....1.
 Number of houses built by private enterprise since the war.....20.
 Number of Council houses built since the war.....74.

Improvement Grants.

Number of applications for improvement grants:

(a) Discretionary.....6.

(b) Standard.....3.

All these applications were approved.

Rural Housing Survey. Extracts from this survey have been used in this report and the following summaries are also interesting. In the classification of houses the following definitions must be borne in mind.

Category 1. Satisfactory in all respects.

Category 2. With minor defects only.

Category 3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement and which it is considered can be carried out at a reasonable cost in relation to the value of the property.

Category 4. Appropriate for reconditioning, improvement or extension, this is generally when a considerable amount of work is required but where it would be unreasonable to force owner to do the work because value of house does not warrant it.

Category 5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost.

Classification of Houses

Cat.1		Cat.2		Cat.3		Cat.4		Cat.5	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
264	23.1	106	9.3	487	42.9	187	16.4	95	8.3
294	25.6	107	9.3	468	40.7	185	16.1	95	8.3

In connection with the above figures, the first line relates to the year 1960 and the second to the year 1961.

Other Amenities as shown by Rural Housing Survey

Fixed Bath		Sink		Hot water installed		Electricity, Mains or own plant	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
407	35.7	759	66.6	448	39.3	600	52.6
445	41.7	788	74.8	485	45.4	686	64.3

In connection with the above figures, the first line relates to the year 1960 and the second to the year 1961.

Housing Consolidated Regulations. No action was taken during the year.

Number of house to house inspections.....28.
 Number of houses inspected under Building Byelaws.....56.

Section 5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.Milk.Record of Inspections and Milk Testing.Brucella Abortus Infection in Milk.

Brucella Abortus infection in cattle causes contagious abortion in cattle and the organism is transmitted through the milk when it causes undulant fever in humans.

During 1961 it was decided to make a survey of all the milk arriving at the C.W.S. creamery at Llanellwedd with the view of ascertaining the incidence, if any, of Brucella Abortus infection in this milk.

A total of 310 producers send their milk to this creamery but only 292 forwarded milk there during the period of the survey and these 292 were sampled.

These samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen and, in the first instance, were submitted to the Ring Test. As a result of this it was shown that 45 samples, or 15.1%, were positive to the Ring Test. This meant that 15.1% of the samples showed evidence of Brucella Abortus at some time but these were not necessarily infectious at the time of sampling.

It was seen that 19 of these positive samples were from the Builth R.D.C. and it was decided to investigate these 19 further. Further samples were therefore taken of these 19 producers and again submitted to the Ring test. Then all the positive samples of this second series were inoculated into guinea pigs.

It was then found that 14 or 73.6% of these samples were still positive to the Ring test but only 3 or 21.4% showed positive guinea pig inoculations. This meant that these three had the organism actually present in the milk at the time of sampling and that the milk was capable of transmitting the disease to humans.

The work involved in this survey was done by Mr. J.C. Bowen and the Public Health Laboratory in Carmarthen. The survey also showed that, of the 19 samples finally dealt with, 11 of the producers or 57.8% had a history of abortion in their herd. Nine, or 47.3% of the producers had been using inoculations of S.19 vaccine.

Number of inspections of vehicles.....21.
 Number of samples taken and were satisfactory.....9.
 60 samples were also taken and examined for tuberculosis and abortus, as part of a survey of milk deposited in the C.W.S. Creamery. This survey is reported upon in this report.

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Act, 1944, the Council is left with the registration and supervision of distributors.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district and all meat is supplied to the district direct from the slaughterhouses in Colwyn Rural District.

Ice Cream Premises. There are 9 retailers of ice cream in the district, two new being registered during the year.

Also sold by a mobile van.

Number of inspections.....13.

Number of notices.....Nil.

Number of samples.....9. of which 7 were in Grade 2 and 2 in Grade 111.

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Food Premises. The following food premises remained in operation at the end of the year.

Grocers.....	17.	(Five supplying ice cream)
Public houses and hotels.....	11.	
Dairies.....	1.	
Cafes.....	1.	
Market Halls.....	1.	

The district is also served by various mobile retailers operating from Builth Wells, Llandrindod Wells and Newbridge.

Food Preparation Rooms.

Number of visits.....	9.
Number of notices.....	Nil.

Educational Activities. A series of lectures were given by the Public Health Inspector and myself to senior Scouts for their Public Health Badge. Nine were successful in the subsequent examination.

Other general visits, not specified above.....43

Section 6. Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Measles.....	20 cases.
Scarlet Fever.....	1 case.
Acute pneumonia.....	1 case.

All cases were nursed at home. No deaths were caused by infectious disease during the year.

Under the Health Act, all fees for the notification of infectious disease are now refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of notifications are received by the County Council.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases on register at commencement of year.....	13.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	2.
Number of deaths during the year.....	0.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	2.
Number of cases which left the district.....	0.
Number of cases left on register at end of year.....	13.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below.

1952. 1953. 1954. 1955. 1956. 1957. 1958. 1959. 1960. 1961.

1. 0. 4. 3. 4. 2. 2. 1. 0. 2.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Facilities for immunisation are available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign however, remains the same: to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

APPENDIX

Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1961 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BUILTH IN THE COUNTY OF BRECONSHIRE.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspect ions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
ii. Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	10	-	-
iii. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
Total	10	10	-	-

2.- CASES in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness S.1	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding(S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a)Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b)Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c)Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Outwork	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

No outwork was done in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health

